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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BRUSSELS 002931

SIPDIS

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TAGS: [PREL](#) [EAID](#) [IZ](#) [AF](#) [HA](#) [BM](#) [EUN](#) [USEU](#) [BRUSSELS](#)

SUBJECT: COMMISSION PERSPECTIVE ON JULY 12 GAERC

REF: A. A) STATE 147536 (NOTAL)

- [1](#)B. B) THE HAGUE 1700
- [1](#)C. C) SCHOFER-HOLTZAPPLE 7/8/04 EMAIL
- [1](#)D. D) USEU BRUSSELS 2897 (NOTAL)
- [1](#)E. E) REIDHEAD-KOSTELANCIK 7/7/04 EMAIL
- [1](#)F. F) LITZENBERGER-DIBBLE 7/8/04 EMAIL

Classified By: PolOff Rick Holtzapple, Reasons 1.4 (B/D)

#### SUMMARY

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[1](#)1. (C) Commission officials tell us the July 12 General Affairs and External Relations Council (GAERC) meeting will not see many serious decisions before the EU FMs. A featured item would be a lunch discussion with Iraqi PM Allawi (which we now understand may be cancelled or postponed). The principal decision before the GAERC (as noted ref B) is how the EU will handle Burmese participation at the October ASEM Summit. End Summary.

#### IRAQ

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[1](#)2. (SBU) PolOff delivered ref A points on July 8 to Nick Banner of External Relations Commissioner Patten's staff. Banner indicated ("it may take a while") the Commission was not likely to open an office in Baghdad soon, due to the security situation. He said Patten expected some Member States would push for the Commission to at least send an "exploratory mission" to Iraq, and that Patten was prepared to listen to the arguments for that. Regarding Iraqi PM Allawi's planned lunch appearance, Banner said the EU FMs would be particularly interested to hear Allawi's plans for the national conference and the overall democratization process, as well as how the IIG planned to address the security situation. (NOTE: Subsequent to our meeting, we now understand from The Hague - ref C - that Allawi may not make the GAERC. It remains possible, but not at all certain, that the Iraqi FM may appear in his place.)

#### AFGHANISTAN

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[1](#)3. (C) Banner said the EU aimed to "do what we can to give credibility" to the electoral process. The Commission is working on plans for electoral technical assistance in Kabul. But in the provinces, from the Commission's perspective, it would "just not be safe enough to send long term election observers." Banner stressed this was the Commission's assessment regarding an EU mission; it is not meant to prejudge what the OSCE would decide to do. He commented that at least some EU member states were likely to push for an OSCE mission (Commission South Asia Director Julian Wilson has underscored - ref E - that while the EC's electoral support would be more limited than originally hoped due to security concerns, they had no intent to dissuade the OSCE or others from doing what they could.)

#### BURMA/ASEM

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[1](#)4. (C) Banner commented that back in March, at the ASEM ministerial in Ireland, the EU had laid out its conditions for accepting full Burmese participation at the EU-ASEM Summit in Hanoi this October, including a credible structure (with NLD participation) for the national conference and release of Aung San Suu Kyi. At the recent ARF meeting, the EU had been told by its Asian counterparts that ASEAN was prepared to accept an EU-ASEM Summit format where Burma would only attend at a much lower level than head of state or government. The EU was now deliberating on whether it would accept such an arrangement, with some still holding out for a tougher line, refusing any Burmese participation until some positive moves are made by Rangoon -- but that would almost certainly mean cancellation of the Hanoi Summit. Banner commented that one source of EU confusion on this issue was that the Dutch Presidency itself appeared divided on the proper course to recommend.

NEW ITEMS: SUDAN, HAITI, ISRAEL; ENP DROPPED

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[1](#)5. (SBU) Banner said that the GAERC might endorse some additional humanitarian assistance for the Darfur crisis in

Sudan. He did not have a figure, but per our discussions with other EU officials (Ref D), we believe it could be 40 million euros. The EU FMs will also discuss Haiti, with France pushing for the Commission to commit more assistance funds, something Banner said was unlikely in the immediate future. A final GAERC item (added on July 8, also at French insistence) was the EU's response to a recent refusal by the Israeli government to receive the Quartet envoys (ref F). Banner said GAERC Conclusions regretting the Israeli stance were possible, but little more than that.

16. (SBU) Banner also said that the European Neighborhood Policy (ENP) Action Plans had been dropped from the GAERC agenda, because the only one that was ready was with Moldova. The Commission preferred to postpone the discussion until an autumn GAERC, when it hoped to have ready additional Action Plans with Jordan, Morocco, and possibly Ukraine, Israel and the Palestinian Authority.

MINIMIZE CONSIDERED

MCKINLEY